

S. 1375

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1375, a bill to preserve and strengthen the foreign market development cooperator program of the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

NOTICE OF HEARING

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. COHEN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management and the District of Columbia, Committee on Governmental Affairs, will hold a hearing on Wednesday, November 29, 1995, at 9:30 a.m., in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, on S. 1224, the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act of 1995.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IRANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

• Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to deplore Iran's abominable human rights practices, and to remind my colleagues that Iran's continued abuse of the fundamental rights of its own citizens is one of the reasons why I have offered legislation intended to increase economic pressure on this outlaw regime in Tehran.

Human rights organizations all over the world have been deploring the Islamic Republic of Iran's human rights abuses against women, religious and ethnic minorities for years.

This is a country that sentences women to death for adultery, and then carries out the death penalty by bundling them into a postal sac and throwing them from the roof of a 10-story building.

This is a country that still carries out public stonings, and even has a strict legal code to govern the size stones citizens are to use to stone their fellow citizens. Stones too large are not to be used, because death will be inflicted too quickly. Stones too small are to be avoided, because death doesn't come at all. The stones have to be just the right size to allow the victim to suffer for a very long time, and to ensure that they will die of their wounds.

This is a country that continues to use paramilitary security forces to harass and intimidate people in the street, and that closes newspapers because of a political cartoon comparing the Supreme Leader to a comic strip figure.

This is a country where to be a candidate in an election you must first be deemed to be a supporter of the sitting Government. And this is a country, Mr. President, that continues to be cited, year after year, by the Special Representative of the U.N. Subcommission on Human Rights for its systematic use of torture, arbitrary arrests, and summary executions.

These practices were described in an article appearing in a Paris-based newsletter nearly 5 years ago, which I ask to have printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks, along with more recent material supplied to my office by the Foundation for Democracy in Iran, a human rights advocacy group.

Mr. President, I would like to call your attention to a few of the lesser known human rights abuses of the clerical regime in Tehran: its repression of religious and ethnic minorities.

As cited by the 1995 report of Middle East Watch, and the February 1994 report of U.N. Special Representative on Human Rights for Iran, the Iranian security forces conduct arbitrary arrests of Kurdish, Balouch, Turkomen, and other ethnic minorities, and to subject these minorities to cruel and degrading punishments in Iranian jails, including torture and summary execution.

Similarly, as the State Department's February 1995 Report on Human Rights points out, the clerical regime discriminates against citizens of other religious persuasions than the dominant Shiite Moslem faith. Baha'is, Jews, and Sunni Muslims have been arrested over the past year for no other reason than their faith, and some of these individuals have been executed.

In fact, the Islamic Republic has engaged in a deliberate policy to suppress the rights of its Sunni minority, and in particular members of the Balouchi tribes in eastern Iran. On February 1, 1994, riots broke out in Zahedan, Mashed, and Khaf after 500 municipal workers demolished a Sunni mosque in the Zahedan district. On January 10, 1993, Iranian Revolutionary Guards troops attacked Balouchi residents in the village of Robat, when the homes of an estimated 50 families were set on fire in an attempt to secure a single individual, Haji Pirdad. The U.N. Special Representative for Human Rights reported on February 2, 1994 that 20 Balouchis were executed in December 1992 and February 1993 in Zahedan prison, while Amnesty International reported that 42 Balouchis including minors were executed between November 1991 and March 1992.

I believe, Mr. President, that this behavior by the Islamic Republic just goes to show that we are dealing with an outlaw regime that cares little about its own people. If it cares so little about its own people, how will it act toward others?

Iran is isolated and universally viewed as a pariah state. Its actions are abhorrent to the civilized world. As long as this warped, terroristic regime continues to punish the Iranian people with its misrule, this condition will continue. The tyrants in Tehran must understand their aggression and abuse of the good people of Iran will not last, and one day they will be brought to task for their actions.

While the tyrants continue to rule in Tehran, sanctions are a clear way to keep up the pressure on Iran and to

deny them the ability to carry out their aggression on the outside world as well as against their own people. We do not take these issues lightly. It is a pity that the regime cannot act like a civilized country and not be so abusive. If only Iran would not conduct these brutal actions, we would not have to place sanctions on it.

The article follows:

[From Mednews, No. 4.4, Dec. 3, 1990]

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN IRAN

The "moderate" regime in Tehran so dear to Washington policymakers has failed the test again—the test of human rights. Three recent reports on human rights abuses in Iran show beyond a doubt that extreme caution is still needed in dealings with the current regime in Iran.

The reports were prepared independently by Amnesty International, the United Nations, a Paris-based Iranian exile group, the Foundation for the Independence of Iran. All three conclude unequivocally that human rights abuses have increased markedly since the end of the Gulf war, despite Iranian government claims to the contrary.

In his second report in thirteen months, which was released in late November, the UN's Reynaldo Galindo Pohl confirms that at least 113 Iranians have been executed since March 21, the start of the Iranian New Year.

In fact, Pohl's figures fall far short of the mark—once again. Accounts published in the official Iranian media alone show more than 600 deaths by execution since March 21. Last year, that figure reached 2,500. When he questioned the Iranian authorities about the executions during his first visit to Tehran during the fall of 1989, Mr. Pohl was told that the victims were "ordinary criminals," not political prisoners, and that all had been "treated in conformity with the Ta'zirat and the standards of Islamic law." Allegations of torture and summary execution were groundless, Pohl explained, since Iran did not maintain that its laws adhered to the universal declaration of human rights.

Amnesty International recently quoted Iran's "Islamic" law on lapidation and concluded: "In Iran, stoning someone to death isn't against the law. Using the wrong stone is." [See illustration.] Yet another Amnesty report on Human Rights abuses in Iran is scheduled for release on December 5.

The Foundation for the Independence of Iran has chosen to stick to accounts published in the Iranian press, and recently presented a detailed report to the French government on human rights abuses in Iran.

Here are just a few of the more startling examples the Foundation discovered:

July 26: Keyhan announces that forty women have recently been stoned to death. "Whippings, sectioning of fingers and hands are common punishments" in Iranian prisons.

August 17: The Iranian Press Agency (Irna), quoted by Nimrooz, acknowledges that 14,000 persons have been arrested during the past two months, mostly for drug trafficking. On the personal orders of President Rafsanjani and Intelligence Minister Fallayian, they were deported to work camps on the Island of Endourabi.

August 24: Nimrooz reported that a woman accused by her husband of infidelity was sentenced to an unusual death in Tehran. She was sewn into a burlap bag and thrown off the roof of the Ministry of Justice.

August 30: Keyhan reports that 45-year old Ebaolollah Kiani was condemned to death by stoning in the central square of the town of Nahavandi, for having had intercourse with a woman.

August 31: Nimrooz reports that anti-government slogans chanted during a football match in Tehran led to mass arrests. Two thousand persons received prison terms ranging from 5 years to life, while many others were executed, [Opposition sources believe as many as 400 were sentenced to death].

September 7: Nimrooz reports that a fight between two men in the town of Rey ended in blows and the death of one of the men, Hassan Ahmadi. As punishment, the mollahs of the town ordered that his assailant, Nader Zandi, be taken to the town square and beaten to death by the crowd, under the principle "an eye for an eye . . ."

September 13: Keyhan lists the names of 51 persons who were hanged in a single day in the cities of Mashad and Khach, on charges of drug-trafficking and illegal possession of weapons.

October 4: Keyhan lists the names of 65 persons executed by hanging in the towns of Mashad, Zahedan, Malayer, Busheir, Ardebil, and Sabzevar. In Kermanshah two petty criminals had fingers chopped off as punishment for theft.

Meeting with members of the French government's Human Rights Commission on November 22, the Foundation's President, Colonel Hassan Aghilipour, noted that the new European Charter just signed by 34 heads of State in Paris "devoted 45 lines to human rights," while in Iran executions and deportations were occurring daily. "There are 150,000 Iranians now condemned to Islamic gulags in the southeast of Iran and on the Persian Gulf islands," Aghilipour said.

OCTOBER 20, 1995.

Subject: Execution and arrest of Kurds in Iran.

FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY IN IRAN

The Foundation for Democracy in Iran is concerned over recent reports from Iranian Kurdistan regarding the execution of 10 Kurds and the arrest of at least 26 others.

According to the opposition Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (DPIK), 10 Kurdish political prisoners accused by the regime of being DPIK supporters were executed or died under torture in late September.

Six of the prisoners, Kurdish villagers from northwestern Iran, were executed by firing squad after a year of detention in Orumiyeh prison, the group said. Three others died under torture. The tenth, a Kurdish villager identified as Rashid Abubakri, was hanged on Sept. 21, also in Orumiyeh prison. All were detained and executed on the grounds they were supporters of a banned political opposition group.

In early October, the Iranian press reported that 345 persons had been arrested in Orumiyeh district at the same time as the alleged DPIK sympathizers were executed. On October 7, 1995, the DPIK released the names of 26 Kurdish civilians it claims have been arrested over the past two months in the Orumiyeh and Salmas regions in northwestern Iran, on charges of cooperating with a banned political opposition group. Those arrested were identified as follows:

1. Asgar Darbazi, son of Omar, native of the village of Barazi.
2. Aziz Hayavani, son of Shino, native of the village of Barazi.
3. Pros Azizi, son of Hussein, native of the village of Barazi.
4. Dino Ibrahim, son of Saleh, native of the village of Barazi.
5. Salahaddin Faghapur, son of Saleh, native of the village of Barazi.
6. Ghamar Mirazai, son of Timur, native of the village of Dostan.
7. Saleh Amini, son of Khaled, native of the village of Gozek.
8. Yunes Amini, his son, born in the same village.

9. Naji Mohammadi, son of Mohammad, native of the village of Gozek.

10. Omar Mohammadi, son of Timur, native of the village of Gozek.

11. Doctor Shirvan, son of Mostafa, native of the village of Haraklan.

12. Sadigh Alizadeh, son of Abubakr, native of the village of Haraklan.

13. Afshar Laal, son of Abdul Rahman, native of the village of Kalarash-Sofla.

14. Shafigh Hakkari, son of Reza, native of the village of Kalarash-Sofla.

15. Bakra Hakkari, son of Sultan, native of the village of Kalarash-Sofla.

16. Taghsim Mirzai, son of Mirza, native of the village of Tarikan.

17. Nuraddeen Taheri, son of Jahanghir, native of the village of Tarikan.

18. Farhad Zareh, son of Sayda, native of the village of Sharvani.

19. Tajaddeen Faghazadeh, son of Sadigh, native of the village of Sharvani.

20. Nasser Zarch, son of Mullah Sultan, native of the village of Sharvani.

21. Majid Hussein, son of Mullah Sayed, native of the village of Sharvani.

22. Nosrat Hassanzadeh, son of Khaled, native of the village of Sharvani.

23. Faysal Zareh, son of Tamo, native of the village of Sharvani.

24. Sadigh Majidi, son of Mamo, native of the village of Hamamlar.

25. Zaher Ahmadi, native of the village of Koran.

26. Ahmad Sultani, son of Smeh, native of the village of Islamabad.

The Foundation condemns the execution of individuals for their political beliefs, and calls on the UN Rapporteur for Human Rights to investigate these reports. The Foundation further condemns the recent round-ups of Kurdish civilians by the Iranian authorities as a clear attempt to intimidate citizens from the legitimate non-violent expression of their political beliefs.

OCTOBER 22, 1995.

Subject: New Security Violates Human Rights.

FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY IN IRAN

The Foundation for Democracy in Iran is concerned that a sweeping new security law voted by the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) on October 17 adds a new threat to the human rights of ordinary Iranian citizens. The new law criminalizes a wide variety of non-violent political activity, and creates broad categories of "seditious" behavior that are punishable by law. It also creates a sweeping new "national security" provision, which can be used against political opponents both inside and outside Iran. This new law goes far beyond existing statutes in the Islamic Republic and suggests that recent riots in South Tehran and labor strikes in major factories may have destabilized the regime much more than previously thought.

The law imposes a penalty of two to ten years in prison for anyone, regardless of ideology, who forms or leads a group of more than two members, in Iran or abroad, with the aim of threatening the country's security, Tehran radio reported. For defendants who are found by an Islamic court to be "mohareb"—infidels—the penalty is death.

Under this provision, the Islamic Republic could claim legal justification in kidnapping political opponents living outside of Iran. A first instance of this appears to have occurred on September 27, when Ali Tavassoli, a former central committee of the Fedayeen (Majority) Organization, was reportedly kidnapped by Iranian government agents in Baku. Mr. Tavassoli had traveled to Azerbaijan from Britain for a business meeting. According to the Fedayeen he had retired from their active leadership in 1989.

Other provisions of the new law raise the intimidation level against ordinary Iranians

for any contact with foreigners or fellow citizens suspect of contact with foreigners.

The new law:

imposes a maximum ten year jail sentence on anyone convicted of passing "confidential" information on Iran's domestic or foreign policies to unauthorized persons;

imposes a maximum ten year jail sentence on "attempts to demoralize the armed forces and the police," including appeals to soldiers to desert.

a maximum five year jail sentence for foreign nationals caught spying in Iran on behalf of a foreign state;

This sweeping new security law is a clear violation of the fundamental human rights of Iranian citizens. The Foundation vigorously condemns these efforts by the Iranian regime, and calls on Iran's Majlis to rescind the law before it goes into effect. •

THE DEATH OF HENRY J. KNOTT, SR.

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, with great sadness, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary man. Henry J. Knott, Sr., died yesterday at the age of 89. For many decades, we knew him in Baltimore and throughout Maryland as a talented businessman and a philanthropist whose generosity knew no bounds.

I first want to express my deepest condolences to his wife of 67 years, Marion Burk Knott, his 12 children, his 51 grandchildren, and his 55 great-grandchildren.

People in positions of power and responsibility should serve as role models for our young people and give something back to their communities. I have great admiration for people who have a sense of civic responsibility, for people who try to make their community a better place to live.

Mr. Knott epitomized these qualities. Throughout his career, he sought to help those less fortunate than himself get a better education and lead better lives. He donated millions of dollars to Catholic educational institutions like his alma mater, Loyola College; Mount St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg; the College of Notre Dame in Maryland; and the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

His legendary generosity extended well beyond education. He provided enormous help to health and cultural institutions as well. He donated essential funds to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Johns Hopkins Oncology Center, and several Baltimore hospitals to help them establish an income fund to provide medical care for the poor.

His many business activities earned him a reputation as a highly disciplined and hard-working person. But his civic and charitable activities showed us that he was also an extremely modest person who had very deep feelings for the Catholic Church, his community, and the people around him.

In a 1987 Baltimore Magazine article, he was asked about his prodigious philanthropy. He replied that making money was "like catching fish. You get up early. You fill the boat up with fish.